

January 2009

## Draft Minutes of Special Meeting - December 17, 2008

The Board held an abbreviated December meeting by phone after snow and ice forced cancellation of the regularly scheduled meeting at the Georgetown campus of South Seattle Community College. The Board met to take action on several December agenda items. Information and discussion items on the agenda were rescheduled to January.

### Board members present

Charley Bingham

Ethelda Burke

Gene Colin

Roberta Greene, secretary

Bill Grinstein, chair

Earl Hale

Jesus Hernandez, vice chair

Sasha Sleiman

Sam Smith

Chairman Bill Grinstein opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Joining the Board on the phone were Ann Daley, executive director; Ann Anderson, CWU director of government relations; Robert Corbett, UW coordinator of new programs; Gary Larson, HECB senior communications specialist; and Belma Villa, executive assistant and secretary to the Board.

### Consent agenda items for approval

- November meeting minutes
- Bachelor of Arts in Finnish, UW – **Resolution 08-43**

**Action:** **Sam Smith** moved for approval of the consent agenda items. **Jesus Hernandez** seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved via roll call.

### Executive Director's report

Executive Director Ann Daley said the Board's January 2009 meeting in Olympia will include some items that had been scheduled for December, including a report from the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance. Also in January, the Board is expected to review a draft white paper discussing the benefits of higher education for individuals, society, and the state economy. The Board also will receive the annual report on student financial aid programs and a briefing on the 2009 legislative session.

She said the proposed 2009-11 budget cuts present a serious challenge for state higher education institutions as they attempt to maintain their current level of core services. The cuts could result in severe consequences for some institutions and would stop progress toward the long-term goal of

educating more Washingtonians, a key goal of the 2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education. Larger class sizes, reduced access, cuts in student services, and employee layoffs can be expected, she added.

### **UW North report**

Daley reminded everyone that at the Board's November meeting, Bill Wilkerson, the mediator for the UW North study, reported on the progress of his work to convene all interested parties in the Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties region. The HECB's task is to facilitate discussion and report to the Legislature if the communities reach an agreement on a preferred site. Wilkerson's report to the Board dated December 17, 2008, states that the "...discussions with leaders in the two primary areas of consideration, Everett and Marysville, have not resulted in a consensus at this time as to a *single preferred site*."

**Action: Charley Bingham** moved for approval of **Resolution 08-41**, accepting the report, and directing the Executive Director to transmit it to the Legislature and the Governor. **Roberta Greene** seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved via roll call.

### **2009 Board officers elected**

The Executive Committee of the Board met as a Nominating Committee and proposed the following slate for 2009:

Jesus Hernandez, chair  
Earl Hale, vice chair  
Roberta Greene, secretary

**Action: Gene Colin** moved for approval of the 2009 Board slate. **Sam Smith** seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved via roll call.

Hernandez, 2008 Board vice chair and financial aid committee chair, will take over the chairmanship duties from outgoing Chair Bill Grinstein. Charley Bingham and Sam Smith will continue to serve as chairs of the Fiscal and Education committees respectively. Gene Colin will assume the duties of Financial Aid Committee chair.

According to board by-laws, the chair, vice chair, and secretary of the Board shall each serve one-year terms, which terminate on December 31 of each year and until successors are elected. Officers shall serve no more than two consecutive one-year terms.

Smith and Hernandez thanked Grinstein for his leadership, inclusiveness, and collaborative work with individuals, groups, institutional representatives and state agencies.

Colin ended the meeting with greetings of "Feliz Navidad!"

**The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.**